

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Korea
SUBJECT Evacuation of the Kaesong Area

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. On 10 January 1953 the Kaesong City Branch of the North Korean Labor Party decided the city police would evacuate all civilians in the area by 5 March 1953.¹ On 15 January 1953 an evacuation order was issued to the people of Yonbaek County stating that they were to destroy designated houses in crowded areas and construct air raid shelters. Two air raid shelters, which were to be used as a market place, were excavated at Qiongmun (N 37-58, E 126-31) (BT-825050). When new army units were stationed in Kaesong, a rumor started that the fighting would eventually reach the city and half the population moved north. On 15 February 1953 all Chinese Communist units in the area, with the exception of two platoons, were transferred to the Korangpo'ri (N 37-59, E 126-50) (CT-1006) area. In February 1953 all government agencies in Kaesong were moved to Yongnam-myon (N 38-00, E 126-35) (BT-8808).
2. On 5 March 1953 plans were made to evacuate civilians in Kaesong to an area 4 kilometers north of the city by 30 April 1953. The Togyo Market was to be moved from its present location, 1.5 kilometers south of the Kaesong Railroad Station, to a place 4 kilometers north of the station.
3. On 20 February 1953 all Chinese civilians in the Kaesong area were evacuated to P'yongyang by the Chinese Communist troops. The only Chinese that remained in the city were either military personnel or intelligence agents.

1. Comment. The North Korean Army Headquarters ordered all civilians evacuated from the Kaesong area by 15 January 1953.

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in [REDACTED] that the North Korean Ministry of Internal Affairs ordered in early December 1952 an investigation of certain Kaesong residents for possible evacuation to Chagang Province. Those designated were born south of the present battle line or had relatives in South Korea.

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[REDACTED] Comments. [REDACTED] an account of the evacuation of Naesong-myon (N 37-58, E 125-51) in October 1952. This evacuation was planned by the Naesong-myon branch of the NKLP. Radio Peiping reported on 20 April 1953 that residents of Kaesong greeted Communist POW's who passed through Kaesong on their way back from Panmunjom.

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